

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 13 and 16-22 are pending in the application, with 13 and 16 being the independent claims. Claim 13 is sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,825,474 issued to Maase ("Maase"). Applicants respectfully traverse. Maase neither teaches nor suggests an electro-optical biometric image capturing system having an optical path through a prism to a platen and including a heater assembly, wherein the heater assembly is attached to a surface of the prism, as claimed in amended claim 13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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